



Possible Implications of *Emergencies Act* (formerly *War Measures Act*) Across the IMVE Space

The purpose of this preliminary assessment is to examine the possible implications of the invocation of the *Emergencies Act* across the ideologically motivated violence extremism (IMVE) space in Canada, with a particular focus on the Freedom Convoy 2022 (FC22) and CSIS' subjects of investigation (SOI).

Key Assessments

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Some individuals holding accelerationist or anti-government views would view any announcement relating to the invocation of the *Emergencies Act* as confirmation of their core beliefs, would increase the volume of their extreme online chatter, and would likely further their radicalization pathways towards violence. It is possible that a small number of individuals could use the situation to engage in serious violence.

- The invocation of the *Emergencies Act* would likely galvanize the broader anti-government narratives within the FC22 and, as with CSIS SOI's, further the radicalization pathways of some individuals towards violence. More significantly, while the invocation of the *Emergencies Act* would likely lead to the dispersing of the FC22 in Ottawa and elsewhere in the short-term, it will likely increase the number of Canadians holding extreme anti-government views and push some towards the belief that the system (or this government) has failed and that violence is the only solution.

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The invocation of the *Emergencies Act* has the potential to similarly radicalize Canadians (previously unknown to law enforcement) and possibly mobilize them to violence.

- The impact of the invocation of the *Emergencies Act* will likely be more profound across the IMVE milieu and FC22 as the visibility and active participation of the military in Ottawa and at other protests and blockades increases.
- The declaration of emergency by the Province of Ontario under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protections Act* has resulted in a significant increase in violent rhetoric towards the Premier of Ontario and other senior elected officials. The invocation of the *Emergencies Act* would likewise result in a similar increased threat towards the Prime Minister and other cabinet ministers.

Freedom Convoy 2022 in Ottawa and Across the Country

CSIS assesses that the Freedom Convoy 2022 is part of the broader anti-public health measures movement. The Ottawa occupation is comprised of groups (primarily those belonging to the Freedom Convoy), networks and individuals.

Key narratives are not homogenous; in fact, protestors espouse a range of grievances (often intertwined with conspiracy theories) in support of their opposition to public health measures.

The Ottawa occupation and other protests and blockades are comprised of a range of individuals from across Canadian society - not solely those holding extreme views.



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